



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RIO VISTA FERRIES SCHEDULED FOR DRY-DOCK SERVICE

Solano – Beginning at 3 P.M. on January 12, 2009 the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) plans a full suspension of service on the Real McCoy (Cache Slough Ferry). The ferry provides non-stop service from State Route 84 in Rio Vista to Ryer Island in Solano County.

The Real McCoy, a double-ended propeller driven ferry, will be out of service for at least 30 days. During this period, the ferry will undergo its first dry-dock service in the last eight years.

The dry-dock service will enable Caltrans to upgrade the 62-year old ferry's mechanical and electrical systems, as well as add a new coat of paint. A more precise time frame for how long the Real McCoy will be out of service will be released later this month after a dry-dock assessment.

Caltrans will perform a seven-day test run after the ferry returns from dry-dock service in February and then pull the J-Mack cable ferry for a similar procedure. The J-Mack, also known as the Steamboat Slough Ferry, is located at the ferryboat terminal on State Route 220 between Ryer Island and Grand Island in Solano County. Both ferries service Ryer Island, a farming and resort community with a population of approximately 400 people. The only other access to the island is through the Miners Slough Bridge, which will remain open.

“Because of the state's fluid budget situation, we are scheduling these ferries for dry-dock repairs now, because we don't know when their replacements will be ordered,” said Bijan Sartipi, Caltrans District 4 Director. “We have to ensure the vessels are in good shape until we know when they are going to be replaced,” Sartipi added.

Caltrans will install changeable message signs at key approaches to Ryer and Grand Island prior to and during the period the ferries will be serviced. More updates on the repair schedule will also be provided by Caltrans.

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